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Letter dated 11 February 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to submit herewith a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of Kazakhstan's accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons on 14 February 2014 (see annex).

I would be grateful if you would kindly circulate the present letter and its annex on 14 February as a document of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly under agenda item 99, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ambassador Kairat **Abdrakhmanov**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 11 February 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of Kazakhstan's accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

The Republic of Kazakhstan is a firm and consistent advocate of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. This year, 14 February 2014, marks the twentieth anniversary of Kazakhstan's accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as a non-nuclear-weapon State.

Strengthening the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime, including its cornerstone, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, is one of the priorities of Kazakhstan's foreign policy. The danger of the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and also of the materials and technologies required for their production, is one of the most serious challenges for international security, particularly in view of the rising threat of terrorism.

The Non-Proliferation Treaty is a key, time-tested international instrument for ensuring global and regional stability. It is important to implement the Treaty in an effective and balanced manner, in line with its three pillars: nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Kazakhstan's position is based on the firm conviction that the Treaty's objectives can only be effectively achieved through the joint efforts of States in close collaboration with international and regional organizations, especially the United Nations.

The Republic of Kazakhstan is actively participating in international efforts towards a nuclear-weapon-free world and nuclear safety. Over its 20 years as a party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, Kazakhstan has taken practical actions that have contributed significantly to the achievement of the Treaty's aims.

The first step in the development of what would become Kazakhstan's non-proliferation policy was the closure of the Semipalatinsk nuclear testing site in August 1991. This was the first time in world history that a nuclear testing site was closed at the behest of the people.

In 1995, Kazakhstan withdrew the world's fourth most powerful nuclear arsenal from its territory and dismantled its nuclear weapons production and testing infrastructure.

In 2009, Kazakhstan, together with the other Central Asian countries, established a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia, thereby making an important collective contribution to the strengthening of global and regional security.

At Kazakhstan's initiative, on 2 December 2009, the United Nations General Assembly, at its sixty-fourth session, adopted a resolution proclaiming 29 August,

the day the Semipalatinsk testing site was shut down, as the International Day against Nuclear Tests. This will contribute to the global aspirations to achieve peace, ban nuclear testing throughout the world, raise awareness and educate the public on issues of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Kazakhstan calls on all countries and international organizations to observe the International Day against Nuclear Tests.

In addition, Kazakhstan has launched a project called ATOM (Abolish Testing Our Mission), an international petition campaign designed to unite public opinion throughout the world against nuclear tests. The campaign has already received tremendous support from the global community.

Kazakhstan will host the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) international low-enriched uranium fuel bank in its territory. Negotiations on a host country agreement providing for the bank's location are currently being finalized. The development of multilateral approaches to nuclear fuel, including the creation of guaranteed nuclear fuel reserves, will promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

In 2013, in Almaty, Kazakhstan hosted two rounds of the six-party talks with the Islamic Republic of Iran on the Iranian nuclear programme, during which the foundations were laid for further progress in the negotiation process.

Furthermore, Kazakhstan has been actively involved in the work of the Nuclear Security Summits. It is vital to achieve a common understanding of the perils posed by nuclear terrorism and to adopt measures to ensure that nuclear facilities, material and technology are safeguarded and do not fall into the hands of terrorists. Kazakhstan intends to participate actively in the next Nuclear Security Summit, to be held in The Hague in March 2014.

Kazakhstan is a party to all the international instruments on the non-proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. It participates actively in the work of the Nuclear Suppliers Group, the Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (The Hague Code), the Zangger Committee, the Proliferation Security Initiative regarding weapons of mass destruction, the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism and the Global Partnership on non-proliferation.

In order to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons, the Republic of Kazakhstan calls upon all States parties to reaffirm their commitment to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and to their obligations under that instrument, the decisions adopted at the Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty, and the practical implementation of the agreements reached to ensure the Treaty's universality.

It also calls upon States that have not yet acceded to or ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty to do so promptly, with a view to its early entry into force. It is necessary to strengthen the verification regime of that Treaty as one of the most effective tools for ensuring non-proliferation, disarmament and nuclear safety in the world.

Kazakhstan advocates the opening of negotiations and the drafting, without delay, of a fissile material cut-off treaty, which would represent a major step towards nuclear disarmament and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

It shares the aims of the countries calling for the early development of a convention for the general and complete prohibition of nuclear weapons. The initiative launched by Kazakhstan within the United Nations for the adoption of a universal declaration on a nuclear-weapon-free world is an important means of furthering this goal, as it will express the determination of all States to make steady progress towards the ideals of a world without nuclear weapons. Kazakhstan calls on Member States to support the adoption of such a universal declaration.

Moreover, Kazakhstan supports the establishment of further nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States concerned.

The early convening of a conference on a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, with the participation of all the States of the region, is critical in order to implement the conclusions and recommendations adopted at the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

As an active supporter of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, Kazakhstan assures the States Members of the United Nations that it will continue to make every effort to strengthen peace and international and regional security and stability, and to strengthen the role of the United Nations in addressing global problems and new challenges in the twenty-first century.

The Republic of Kazakhstan stands ready, should the Member States entrust it with such an honour, to serve as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for the period 2017-2018, taking responsibility for promoting nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation issues in the Council's deliberations.